## **Glossary**

**Aquifer** – A formation of rock sand or gravel underneath the earth that allows water to move through and to be stored.

**Biodiversity** – Biological diversity of species, including both vegetation and wildlife.

**Buffers** – A protective barrier of vegetation.

Consumptive use – To be used for human consumption, such as drinking water.

**Easement** – Legal restrictions on land owned by another, easements can be purchased from landowners in order to protect sensitive land in perpetuity.

Federal Threatened and Endangered Species List – The US Fish and Wildlife Service's list of species that are considered to be threatened or endangered. Species on this list are protected by law.

Floodplain – Any land that is susceptible to flooding, flood prone soils.

Freshwater wetland – Wetlands that are inundated by fresh water and have non-saline soils.

Frost Heaving – An upthrust of ground or pavement caused by freezing of moist soil.

**Geographic Information Systems** – A computer mapping program used to layer information and data.

**Groundwater** – Water within the earth stored in aquifers.

**Hydric soil** – Soil that have developed over time in anaerobic conditions, flood prone

**Impervious surface** – Surfaces that do not allow the penetration of water, such as concrete and asphalt.

**Infiltration** – The penetration of water into the soil and water table.

Infrastructure – Built structures, such as pipes, roads and buildings.

**Non-point source pollution** – pollution that is not tied to a specific source, such as runoff from a field.

**Permeability** – The level in which a surface will permit liquids to pass through.

**Point source pollution** – Pollution that can be tied to a specific source, such as a pipe discharge.

**Preservation** – Actions taken to preserve and protect something for the future.

Precipitation – Water deposited on earth in liquid (rain), gas (fog), or frozen (snow) forms.

**Quaternary** – A period or system of rocks grouped together.

**Recharge** – Water that restores or refills an aquifer to its original level.

**Reservoir** – A place where water is collected and kept in quanity for use when wanted.

**Saline Soil** – Soil that has higher than average salt content.

**Saline wetland** – Wetlands that have saline water and/or saline soil.

**Salt-water intrusion** – When salt water creeps into fresh water supplies, thus contaminating the fresh water source.

Shrink-swell – The increase and decrease in soil volume when it is wetted and dried.

**Topography** – The relief, elevation, structural relationship and position of earth features.

**Watershed** – The natural earth basin that drains water into lakes and streams.

**Water Table** –The upper limit of the saturated water level underneath the earth's surface, when the water table reaches the top of the earth it forms waterbodies.

**Wetland** – An ecosystem that harbors hydric soil, water-tolerant vegetation and is saturated with water at least part of the year.